



Wilson Historical Society  
PO Box 813  
Wilson, NY 14172

## Wilson Historical Society & Museum

645 Lake Street  
P.O. Box 830  
Wilson, NY 14172-0830



### Cobblestone Homes and Legends of Town of Wilson, NY

*The Wilson Historical Society is a non-profit entity operating under an absolute charter granted by the NYS Board of Regents. Its mission is to preserve the history of the Village and Town of Wilson. Membership is open to everyone.*



## 1. Morgan Johnson

The Morgan Johnson House, just south of the Village on Rt. 425, was built in 1844 by Captain Morgan Johnson of the "Millie Cook". Architecturally, it is one of the finest of all the cobblestones in the township. The recessed center entrance is approached by limestone steps flanked by recumbent stone consoles that act as low railings. Two stone columns with circular Doric caps support the massive stone lintel and stone cornice. Windows retain the original small paned wood sash, and a beautiful circular staircase is centered in the hall.



## 2. Aiken House

Located on the North Side of Ide Road, East of Maple Road, this home was built for William and Harriet Aiken ca. 1860. It has an unusual pattern of ribbed fieldstone with larger ones covering the back and sides of the house. When it was purchased in 1914, the new owner William Demmin uncovered the remains of a large fireplace and oven while doing some remodeling. This home was torn down in 2005.



## 3. Adriance House

The Thomas Adriance House, built in 1835, is a good example of fieldstone construction. The house is located on Beebe Road, South of Nelson Road. Sadly, it, too, has fallen into ruins and will probably be lost within the next year. Thomas' son William served in the 28th Infantry Regiment during the Civil War and his engraved pistol has been returned to a grandniece by the Niagara County Historical Society.



4.  
William Woodcock

This home was built on the North side of the Marsh Settlement Road (now Chestnut Road) in 1836. Stones were brought by wagon from Lake Ontario over trails cut through the woods. It certainly would have been a difficult task when you consider that East Wilson in the 1800's was covered with great swamps and bears and wolves roamed freely!



5.  
Jesse Smith House

The Jesse Smith house was built in 1833 and is known as a Greek Revival style house. Stones for the facing are English cut—stones cut in two with the flat side exposed on the outer wall. They are approximately 4" wide and laid in the same manner as those used in regular cobblestone construction. This home is located on the Maple Road north of Nelson Road.



6.  
William Wilson

The William Wilson house was built in 1861. The facing on the building is laid with English cut stones morticed with limestone. Stones used were hauled by wagon from the Lake Ontario Shore, and when it was completed, it was occupied by two families consisting of 13 people! It is located on the west side of the Maple Road, north of Shadigee Road.



## 7. James Morse House

Built around 1845, the James Morse house features the typical farm house plan of Western New York. Walls are faced with grey and brown cobblestones, and the cornice is Greek Revival. Windows are capped with stone-label moldings fashioned at Lockport in English Gothic Style.



## 8. Exley House

This house is constructed with fieldstone with the corner quoins standing out in sharp contrast. The original house was built with many additional rooms, but by 1922, 13 of them had been removed. The Exley name was given to the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Wilson when two farms and a substantial cash gift was given by the family to build the present brick edifice in 1884., In later years, it was said the Exleys kept cans of money in the floor of an upstairs bedroom.



## 9. Clinton Pettit House

Built ca. 1835, the Pettit house was constructed from fieldstone cobbles of various sizes and colors. The quoins, window sills and lintels are of grey limestone. It is a simple Greek Revival farmhouse with a one and a half story main section parallel to the highway. The house was the boyhood home of Ira Pettit, who died in Andersonville prison during the Civil War. His story is told in the book “Diary of a Dead Man”, by Jean P. Ray.



## 10. J. Whitlock House

This home, built ca. 1835, is separated from the highway by a dry-wall stone wall. The water washed cobbles are mainly grey and brown, and smaller on the front than the sides. The main entrance features a pair of Doric columns and the grilles over the belly windows in the cornice are made of wood, which was unusual. The cut stone are all grey limestone.



## 11. Wilson House

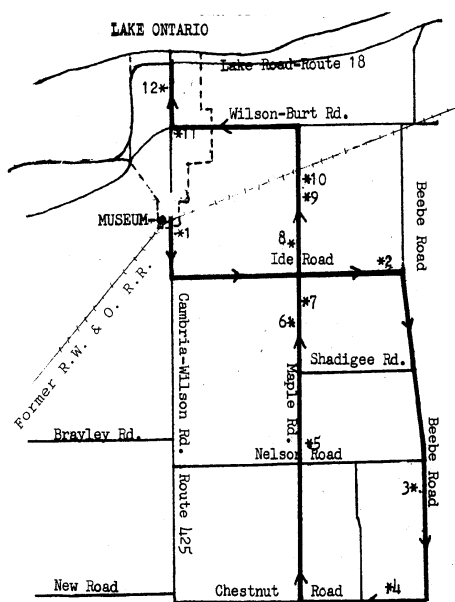
This cobblestone structure, built in 1844, was the home of Luther Wilson and was built on the site of the 1st log school-house in the Village of Wilson. It is of grey, water-washed cobbles, with grey limestone lintels, sills and quoins. In 1890, an unusual double funeral was held in the house for Luther, 92, and his son Reuben, 68. For many years the historic home was known as the Wilsonian Club, and since 1947 has been used as a hotel/inn and restaurant.



## 12. Case Homestead

The Case homestead was built ca. 1935 from lake washed cobblestones of various sizes and colors. The quoins are red sandstone and the lintels and sills are grey sandstone. The deep sill windows give evidence of the 20" walls around the house. It is patterned after the Dutch Colonial style. The story is told that in the early 1800's Rachel Case gathered the cobbles on the lakeshore and carried them in her apron to the building site.

1. Morgan Johnson House
2. Aiken House
3. Adriance House
4. Wm. Woodcock House
5. Jesse Smith House
6. William Wilson House



7. James Morse House
8. Exley House
9. Clinton Pettit House
10. J. Whitlock House
11. Wilson House
12. Case Homestead

Photo Credits: Charles Horton, Diane Muscoreil

Thanks to the late Donald Croop for all the information!